

**Remarks by Ambassador Paul Cellucci
Keynote Speaker
Conference of Defence Associations Seminar (CDAI)
“Canada-US Security Relations and the Role of the Canadian Forces”
March 3, 2005**

REMARKS “AS DELIVERED”

Thank you very much, General MacNamara. It is great to be here, and I want to thank you for your introduction. I also want to thank you for the invitation to address this Conference of Defence Associations on the Canada/U.S. security relationship.

I would also like to acknowledge the important work of your Executive Director, Alain Pellerin in working out a mutually convenient date for me to be here. The CDAI and Alain have been very effective voices for the Canadian Forces over the years, and all of us are very grateful for your efforts.

As we look at Canada-U.S. security relations, I think it is important for us to look at the broad and evolving international context of our security relations. In the four years during which I have served as Ambassador to Canada, dramatic events have reshaped our relationship. The need to prosecute a war against international terrorism has posed many new challenges, challenges that we are meeting together. We have sometimes differed on the means needed to meet those challenges, but we have always shared the same goals, and we have shared the same underlying values.

After our elections last November, when Prime Minister Martin invited President Bush to visit Canada, the President accepted enthusiastically. I think it is important to note that this was President Bush's first bilateral trip abroad since the U.S. elections, and President Bush's visits to Ottawa and Halifax demonstrated the importance and respect with which the President and the American people view Canada.

The President and Prime Minister Paul Martin reaffirmed in their public and private meetings the close ties that connect our two countries. They stress that, whatever our differences, the United States and Canada share common goals and aspirations, threats and challenges.

The visit also gave Canada and the United States the opportunity to renew our mutual commitment to deepening our co-operation in North America and in the world.

Prime Minister Martin and President Bush announced on November 30th that this new partnership will set an agenda to increase the security, the prosperity and the quality of life of our citizens.

Now, over the past month, Secretary of State Rice, Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld and the President have met in Europe to renew security relationships with our trans-Atlantic partners. With our partners, we have rededicated ourselves to the common values that are the bedrock of our relations in our alliances -- the universal desire for individual freedom, for a democratic way of life, and for a better life for our citizens.

The international context of our security relationship is evolving, perhaps more quickly than we would have thought likely just a few months ago. The stunning and courageous election turnout of Iraqis in January marks a turning point. The challenges in Iraq are still enormous. This was an historic achievement. It was an achievement first and foremost for the Iraqi people, but the Iraqis had many friends on their side. The European Union, Canada and the United Nations gave important assistance to the election process.

All of our international partners have welcomed the election results. As Secretary Rice said, "These elections mark the start of a new day."

They are only the beginning of a long, difficult road ahead for Iraq, but I do believe that we are moving toward a stable, democratic government in Iraq, and I believe that the people of Iraq deserve that.

Last year we also saw free elections in Afghanistan. Canada and the United States have worked hard together and with our friends and allies in Afghanistan to create a climate in which all Afghanis, including women, could elect the leaders of their choice. That was a major accomplishment, after decades of domination by the Taliban. We also know that much remains to be done in Afghanistan to enable its citizens to safeguard their security and economic prosperity. But no one can doubt that the prospects are far better today than they were four years ago.

We have also seen the Palestinians elect a new leader in a free election. The election of Mahmoud Abbas as President of the Palestinian Authority has given us a new opportunity to seek peace in the Middle East. As Secretary Rice said during her confirmation hearings, "We are ready to work with the Palestinians, the Israelis and our international partners to help build a viable, independent and democratic state for the Palestinian people, and we will continue to work for a secure State of Israel that is at peace with its neighbors."

We are determined to do all that we can to take advantage of this moment of opportunity in the weeks and in the months ahead. President Bush has pledged \$350 million to support this process. Secretary Rice has renewed direct American involvement in the Middle East and has announced the appointment of a senior security co-ordinator to help train and equip Palestinian forces and monitor Israeli and Palestinian promises to suspend military actions against each other.

Prime Minister Sharon and President Abbas met in Sharm el Sheik last month and announced their intent to achieve a lasting ceasefire that can begin to get us back on the road map toward a secure peace.

Now, the terrorist attacks in Tel Aviv last week remind us of the serious challenges that remain. Those attacks not only kill innocent civilians, they undermine the aspirations and hopes of the Palestinian people. The Palestinian leadership has condemned those attacks, and we hope that the Palestinian leadership will be able to take immediate and credible steps to find those responsible for this terrorist attack and bring them to justice.

Meanwhile, friends of this process, including Secretary Rice and Foreign Minister Pettigrew, met just two days ago in London, under the chairmanship of Tony Blair, the Prime Minister of Great Britain, to advance the progress toward peace.

In Lebanon, the assassination of former Prime Minister Hariri appears to have galvanized Lebanese of all confessions in rejecting terrorist violence.

As President Bush and President Chirac said in a joint statement, Lebanon's forthcoming parliamentary elections can mark another milestone in Lebanon's return to independence and democracy, if those elections are free and fair, conducted without outside interference, and guaranteed by international observers.

The implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 15/59 is essential to the organization and success of these elections. The people of Lebanon deserve this opportunity, and we stand with them in their aspirations to freedom, sovereignty and security.

As a friend of the Egyptian government and people, we have been encouraged by President Mubarak's recent announcement on parliamentary elections. We support the ongoing debate within Egypt about its electoral system and political participation. We will closely follow the implementation of those proposed reforms, and will engage in the broader Middle East and North Africa initiative, the Middle East partnership initiative, and our bilateral assistance program with Egypt.

These are all signs, I think, that freedom and democracy are universal aspirations. They are basic human values that Canada and the United States share. The belief in human dignity, the worth of every individual as an individual, the right to self-government -- these are values that we are working together to advance for the good of all mankind.

Let me turn specifically to U.S.-Canada security co-operation. Around the world, the United States and Canadian forces have worked together, and continue to work together, in NATO, in the OSCE, in The Balkans, in Haiti, and in the Middle East.

The Canadian Forces can be especially proud of the role they continue to play in the war in Afghanistan. As you all know, even though major combat operations are over, and the Afghans have had free elections, we face continued challenges in stabilizing that country.

Both Operation Enduring Freedom and ISAF continue. We very much value the commitment that Canada has made to Afghanistan since the beginning. That includes Canada's participation in the war to liberate the country from the Taliban, and Canada's leadership of ISAF-5, where the Canadian Forces helped set the conditions for the free elections which took place there last year.

That is a rather remarkable achievement. Think about it. In a country that, a little over three years ago, women had no role in the society whatsoever, no one had the vote, the Taliban ruled; yet there they were, lined up by the hundreds of thousands, men and women, lined up to vote, because they want freedom. They want to choose their governments and their leaders. I think it was the most remarkable achievement that we saw last year, not that it got much coverage in the press.

As I mentioned earlier, we have seen a milestone with the free elections in Iraq. Canada's contribution in the Kabul area continues today, despite the operational pause, and we look ahead to the planned provincial reconstruction team in Kandahar and related deployments elsewhere, as you ramp up your deployments after the current operational pause.

In Iraq, despite Canada's decision not to become a member of the coalition, Canadian Forces exchange officers were in theatre, assigned to U.S. and British units. The Canadian Forces officers commanded the interdiction fleets in the Gulf of Oman.

Canada has generously committed funding for the humanitarian relief and the reconstruction of Iraq. Canada is contributing 20 police trainers to the International Police Training Center in Jordan, and Canada has now offered to deploy up to 30 Canadian Forces trainers to assist in the training of Iraqi security forces in countries neighboring Iraq.

Elections Canada stepped up to the plate to lead an international team of election experts to assist the United Nations and Iraqi officials in monitoring and certifying the January elections, when millions of Iraqi citizens braved bombs and bullets to go to the polls to elect their own government and to move their country forward toward democracy.

Prime Minister Martin just announced an additional contribution of \$1 million to the NATO trust fund for the training of Iraqi security forces. This contribution and that of other NATO countries will help build Iraqi capacity to ensure security, which is an essential foundation for democratic governance and economic reconstruction.

So it is clear that Canada is making an important contribution, in co-operation with the United States and our common allies, to help rebuild Iraq, solidify freedom and create a viable democracy in place of the dictatorship that reigned for too many years.

But for the Canadian Forces to continue to be effective around the world, it will require serious consideration of where to apply resources. Even with the welcome announcement of significant increased funding for the Canadian Forces, resources will always be finite, and the potential demands on the Forces will always outrun resources. That is simply a reality that all countries face.

As I have looked at the international challenges with Canadian civilian and military leaders, there are a number of potential areas where I think Canada can punch well above its weight to make a stronger contribution on the international scene.

One area is in the high technology field of command and control computers, communications, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, something the military likes to call C4ISR. Canada enjoys many leading edge technologies, militarily and industrial, that make it a natural in this area. When a response is mounted to an international crisis, many countries can supply infantry and peacekeepers, but far fewer have the latest satellite communications, intelligence systems, computers and other necessary surveillance systems. These enablers are every bit as important as the boots on the ground, and they are also less manpower intensive.

So concentrating on these areas, we believe that Canada can make a disproportionately large contribution. This is an area where Canada has great expertise.

The second capability, which I believe would allow Canada to punch above her weight, is a tier 2 special operations force. Canada's elite, Tier 1 JTF2 is as capable as any Tier 1 Special Forces in the world. It makes a significant contribution whenever deployed.

But because of its specialized nature, as well as its focus on counterterrorism, Joint Task Force 2 is not staffed at levels to train and operate in some of the other important Special Forces' mission areas, such as civilian military co-operation.

For that reason, a Tier 2 Special Operations unit -- small, lean, quickly deployable, and highly trained, with the latest communications and technologies -- would seem to make a lot of sense for Canada. Such a unit could be deployed in numbers that would allow sustainable, company-level deployments of highly capable fighters.

Such a unit would also be capable of softer missions, such as close work with civil authorities. These Tier 2 Special Operation forces are in high demand in NATO and peacekeeping operations worldwide.

A third critical capability is strategic airlift. Canadian Forces know from deployments to Afghanistan and Sri Lanka that it takes big aircraft to move their troops and equipment. Responding effectively to international crisis requires the ability to get to the scene of the crisis quickly. In some cases, strategic airlift capability has been available for Canadian Forces for rent from outside Canada, but that capability has become more scarce, older, and it is in growing demand.

To respond to future crisis, it is likely that Canadian Forces will require their own aircraft. I can think of nothing that would contribute more to Canada's 3-D foreign policy approach than a steady flow of Canadian airlifters, with maple leaves on their side, delivery humanitarian aid, whether to Southeast Asia, sub-Saharan Africa, Haiti, or elsewhere.

Now, all of these potential growth missions for Canada revolve around two themes -- supplying high demand/low density capabilities, and providing capabilities that are not manpower intensive. They are sustainable over time by significant but affordable changes to Canada's military force structure and budget.

In the United States, we are very encouraged by the Canadian government's commitment to defence spending. We await the defence report that should be out fairly shortly, but we are hearing quite positive things about investment in C4ISR, in troop strength, and in airlift.

Let me also make a short pitch for interoperability. There are probably no two countries that are more interoperable than Canada and the United States, whether in terms of intelligence, equipment or personnel. In addition to NORAD, we have over 100 exchange officers and senior NCOs working in units of each other's armed forces. This is more than with any other country in the world.

Some of you, as military officers, have served in exchange billets. These assignments are vital to our shared understanding of defence, and to our ability to continue to have strong relationships at the senior military leader level. A lot of what we do in defence and in co-operative security is about people, and Canada has outstanding military professionals.

Let me close the discussion of our security relationship by moving closer to home. Since the terrorist attacks of September 11th, we have built a zone of confidence here in North America, as is highlighted by the constant and growing co-operation between our Department of Homeland Security and your Department of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness. This is the Ridge/Manley, Ridge/McLellan, and now McLellan/Chertoff process. The co-operation of our law enforcement agencies all along the border is unparalleled. Our goal remains unchanged -- to keep the border open to commerce and to neighbors, while we keep the border closed to terrorists and criminals.

Our close security co-operation with Canada in the defence of the North American continent is of paramount importance. Since 1940 we have harmonized our

defence policies at regular meetings with the permanent Joint Defence Board, which held its most recent regular meeting earlier this week in Washington.

We have worked side-by-side at NORAD, the North American Aerospace Defence Command, since 1958. As most of you know, last August we updated the NORAD Accord specifically to include the missile defence warning and threat assessment function at NORAD.

As you know, the Government of Canada announced on February 24th its decision not to join the Ballistic Missile Defense Program. We have long noted our hope that Canada would join the missile defence program. We have also consistently noted that this was a decision for Canada to make. We have also noted consistently our intention to deploy the missile defence program in any case. That remains our intention. We will defend North America.

I would only add that, as I hope my remarks today have made clear that Canada and the United States have a longstanding co-operative relationship on defence, that we will continue that relationship.

Let me conclude on a personal note. I am often asked, as I leave my post after four years in Canada, what are the special memories. Probably the one thing that I will never ever forget was on September 14th of 2001, when I walked out of the Parliament Buildings here in Ottawa, with the Prime Minister, the Governor General and our spouses. It was a beautiful late summer day, blue sky, brilliant sunshine. There was a sea of people. In a city of about a million people, there were 100,000 Canadians waving the Canadian and American flags, singing both of our national anthems. It was quite an emotional moment.

I also knew at that point in time that thousands of Canadians were opening their churches, their schools, their homes and their hearts to stranded airline passengers from my country. The response and the overwhelming support that my country received from Canada, in our moment of need, is something that I will never ever forget.

It reminds me, more than anything else of my four years here in Canada, that although we are great friends and great neighbors and great allies, the bottom line, as President Bush stated in Halifax, is, "Here in North America we are family and we will always be that."

Thank you very much.